

discussion of Puerto Rico's future and the truth about its current status.

IN HONOR OF JAMES
MASTANDREA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to James Mastandrea, who has received the George B. Davis award for service to Cleveland State University. He has been a tireless supporter of this institution and has dedicated himself to its growth and advancement.

Mastandrea, a current resident of Cleveland, received his bachelor's degree from the College of Business Administration in 1970. Mr. Mastandrea is recognized for his long and distinguished career in real estate, including his management of several firms in Illinois and Ohio. He has been the top executive of Midwest Development Corporation, First Union Real Estate, Triam Corporation, and Continental Homes of Chicago, Inc. He was also the vice president of Continental Bank as well as financial analyst of Mellon Bank. Since 1998, he has been the chairman and chief executive officer of Eagle's Wings Aviation Corporation, a private investment group.

Mr. Mastandrea's continuous and generous support of Cleveland State University began during his undergraduate years at the University. It was during these first years at Cleveland State where he organized the Student Economics Club and served as its president. Currently, Mr. Mastandrea is a director on the Cleveland State University Foundation and the chairman of its Nominating Committee. In addition to these many contributions, he also chairs the College of Business Visiting Committee, has served on the search committee for a business dean, and devoted many hours to the College's strategic planning process.

Let us join Cleveland State University as they honor Mr. James Mastandrea for his many contributions to the University.

HONORING THE DALAI LAMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, today I join the Taiwanese-American Community of Southern California in welcoming His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness' speech on "Love, Compassion and Universal Responsibility" is certain to motivate and inspire this historic gathering.

In 1991 Congress passed a resolution stating that Tibet is an occupied country whose true representatives are the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile.

Forced to flee brutal repression in his homeland, the Dalai Lama is now living in enforced exile. Although the Dalai Lama has repeatedly stated that he seeks only autonomy and not the independence that his people so rightly deserve, the Communist Chinese dictatorship refuses to negotiate. And yet the Dalai Lama

continues to exhort his followers to adhere to the Buddhist principle of nonviolence. His message of hope and freedom through non-violence is an inspiration to us all.

We must never forget the suffering that the people of Tibet have been forced to endure. The government of the People's Republic of China should be held accountable for the immense damage that has resulted from its invasion and occupation of Tibet. The almost complete destruction of Tibet's unique cultural treasures, the attempt to eradicate the Buddhist religion, and the intense repression has never been adequately redressed.

I know I speak for all the Members of this House who voted for freedom in Tibet when I say we welcome His Holiness and look forward to the day when Tibet is free and its people can express themselves without fear. We will look back on these meetings and know that the cause of freedom was advanced and that we did the right thing to stand by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's side.

CHURCH PLAN PARITY ACT

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Commerce Committee shares jurisdiction over this legislation to the extent it pertains to state regulation of the health insurance market.

Church plans provide health benefits for many clergy and laypeople across the country. They represent a wide range of denominations.

Current law has created some uncertainty regarding the regulatory authority under which church plans operate.

This bill, which the Senate has already passed, clarifies the legislative language so that State Insurance Commissioners, Federal Regulators, and Church Plan Administrators can do their respective jobs with certainty.

I am pleased that the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and Church Plans, with the assistance of federal regulators, have been able to reach a compromise on this matter.

By clarifying the various roles each party plays, I hope this bill reinforces the success church plans have achieved in providing reliable, high quality health coverage to their enrollees.

CHAMPION "TOPHER" BARETTO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is in the spirit of tremendous pride that I take the time to pay tribute to Christopher "Topher" Crisostomo Baretto from my island of Guam. Topher is a champion in many ways. He is a great young man and he comes from a champion family led by his parents, Carlos and Marie Baretto. And he is also a champion in the personal watercraft circuit. He has won numerous awards and has finished at the top of

his sport in many local, national and international events. In 1998, he won the International Jet Sports Boating Association championship in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. He will be bringing honor to himself and our island community for years to come.

He currently is in the middle of the U.S. National Water Cross Tour and is currently ranked second in his class. He will compete in San Diego this weekend and the next race will be in Rochester, New York on July 8. As Topher pursues his sport, he rides the waves not only for medals and recognition, but for Guam. He is being sponsored in his tour by the Bank of Guam and the Guam Visitors Bureau. He proudly represents his home island and he is meeting with Guamanian communities throughout the nation to build support for his endeavors. Organizations like the Sons and Daughters of Guam Club in San Diego have welcomed him enthusiastically as he carries the Guam banner on land and in the water.

Go Topher!

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
EDWARD L. THELLMANN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Edward L. Thellmann upon receiving the Civic Leadership Award from Cleveland State University. Mr. Thellmann has developed an outstanding leadership style, and he has devoted his life to public service.

Graduating from Cleveland's West Tech High School, Edward currently sits in the schools alumni Hall of Fame. In 1959 he received his Bachelor of Arts Degrees from Cleveland State University College of Arts and Science. Edward had made these two alma maters proud by his inspirational civil leadership.

Having served Walton Hills for 13 years as the city's honorable mayor, Edward Thellmann has contributed greatly to his community. In addition to this service, he was also President of the Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association. This remarkable position enabled Edward to have an impact on the entire Northeast Ohio area. Furthering this objective still, he was also the vice president of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Trustees.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in applauding and honoring Mr. Edward L. Thellmann for his lifetime of service, dedication and leadership.

EAST 79TH STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, please submit the following article into the RECORD.